

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 08122 011815Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8035

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 08122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY PREPCON: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S

LETTER TO SAUVAGNARGUES

REF: STATE 4184

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES FROM PARIS, ECON CONMIN DELIVERED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DE GUIRINGAUD TODAY, APRIL 1. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID HE WOULD GIVE LETTER TO SAUVAGNARGUES ON HIS RETURN TO PARIS ON APRIL 2.

2. AMBASSADOR DE GUIRINGAUD READ THE SECRETARY'S LETTER IN ECON CONMIN'S PRESENCE. HE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT US ACCEPTANCE OF FRENCH INVITATION AND SAID HE FOUND HIMSELF IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE LETTER. HE PARTICULARLY SINGLED OUT THE PASSAGE STATING THAT WE HAVE FORMED THE HYPOTHESIS THAT FRANCE IS NOT HOSTILE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE NEW IEA ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIES POLICY AND DECLARED THAT THIS HYPOTHESIS WAS CORRECT.

3. ECON CONMIN INFORMED DE GUIRINGAUD THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON. HE ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS MR. ROBINSON WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING AND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS WOULD HEAD

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PAGE 02 PARIS 08122 011815Z

THE U.S. DELEGATION FOLLOWING MR. ROBINSON'S DEPARTURE.

ECON CONMIN ALSO INFORMED DE GUIRINGAUD THAT EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE FSO GORDON BROWN.

4. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN ONE CHANGE IN THE SOCIAL SCHEDULE PLANNED FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING. SINCE SAUVAGNARGUES WILL BE AWAY FROM PARIS ON APRIL 7TH AND 8TH, THE RECEPTION WHICH HE HAD PLANNED TO HOST ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 7TH HAS BEEN CANCELLED AND INSTEAD IT IS CONTEMPLATED THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WILL HOST A LUNCHEON FOR THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ON APRIL 9. HE SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID HE HOPED THE CONFERENCE WOULD LAST ONLY THREE DAYS. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD RUN ON AN EXTRA DAY (I (I.E., THROUGH APRIL 10). HE ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT GOING SO FAR AS TO SAY HE WOULD REFUSE TO CONVENE SESSIONS AFTER APRIL 10, BUT SAID HE WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF THIS TURNED OUT TO BE NECESSARY. HE SAID THE LONGER THE MEETING LASTED THE GREATER WAS THE DANGER THAT THE DISCUSSION WOULD MOVE FROM PROCEDURAL TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS. REFERRING TO THE RELEVANT PASSAGE IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, HE REPEATED THAT HE WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO DISCUSSION OF ANY BUT PROCEDURAL MATTERS IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING.

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